

LOLER INSPECTIONS FOR DRILLING RIGS AND EQUIPMENT



Introduction

Equip provides Competent Persons to carry out Thorough Examinations of lifting equipment, cable percussion rigs, dynamic sampling rigs (where required) and rotary rigs.

What is LOLER?

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations, 1998 replaced existing legal requirements relating to the use of lifting equipment, for example: the Construction (Lifting Operations) Regulations 1961, the Docks Regulations 1988 and the Lifting Plant and Equipment (Records of Test). The LOLER Regulations aim to reduce risks to people's health and safety from lifting equipment provided for use at work. In addition to the requirements of LOLER, lifting equipment is also subject to the requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER).

"If you are an employer or self-employed person providing lifting equipment for use at work, or you have control of the use of lifting equipment, then the Regulations will apply to you."

What equipment is covered by the Regulations?

Lifting equipment includes any equipment used at work for lifting or lowering loads, including attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting. The Regulations cover a wide range of equipment including cranes, fork-lift trucks, lifts and hoists, but also includes lifting accessories such as chains, slings and eyebolts, amongst other things.

"Equipment used at work for lifting or lowering loads, including attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting it."



If we take the above words from LOLER into the drilling industry, it becomes far clearer what is covered:

Cable Percussion drillers should be all too familiar with the LOLER terminology and have been required to have lifting certification for their rigs for many years. However, the regulations go far beyond just a winch rope certificate as the whole rig structure assists the lift.

Rotary Rigs lift the drill string constantly, therefore fall under LOLER but not just the winch as many think, the whole rig is supporting the winch and therefore a LOLER inspection is a requirement for the whole rig not just the winch and cable.

Dynamic Sampling Rigs lift the drill string constantly and again the whole rig supports the lifting and therefore the inspection is required for the whole rig.

These types of rigs must be regularly inspected and carry a LOLER certificate and under PUWER are subject to an annual inspection. Under LOLER an annual examination is also required to be carried out by a trained and competent person and a valid Certificate of Thorough Inspection in place. A lifting test is only a requirement when the machinery is new or has been subject to repairs or modification.

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LOLER INSPECTIONS FOR DRILLING RIGS AND EQUIPMENT CONTINUED



What lifting accessories are covered by the Regulations?

Lifting equipment includes any equipment used at work for lifting or lowering loads, including attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting. The Regulations also cover a wide range of lifting accessories such as chains, slings and eyebolts, amongst other things.

A simple way to decide whether something comes under LOLER, is to check what is the purpose of the piece of equipment. If lifting is its purpose then the legislation applies. Accessories, such as swivels, swivels hooks, rods swivels, lifting heads, shackles, lifting blocks, SPT lifting points, swivels or lifting rings fitted to rigs or the tops of sinker bars all have a prime purpose to lift and must be examined.

In order to comply with LOLER the lifting accessories must be clearly marked with a unique reference number and SWL, be used safely and subject to on-going thorough examination by a competent person. Unlike the annual examination required for equipment, lifting accessories are subject to a minimum 6 monthly basis.

The competent person carrying out a thorough examination must have an appropriate practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of the lifting equipment to be thoroughly examined as will enable them to detect defects or weaknesses and to assess their importance in relation to the safety and continued use of the lifting equipment. They must also have the experience and maturity to call upon specialist advice should they need to do so.

The competent person must be sufficiently independent and impartial to allow objective decisions to be made.

The equipment should also be inspected every week whilst in use by a responsible person. This person should have knowledge and understanding of the equipment but could be an experienced Lead Driller.

The inspection record must identify the pieces of equipment by their unique number and a record to confirm the accessory i.e. swivel was safe to use. N.B. no unique identifier means no means of validation.



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